

LEGISLATION

SIXTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS. Sess. I. CH.270. 1924. 463

CHAP. 270. – An Act Providing for a comprehensive development of the park and playground system of the National Capital.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. **That to preserve the flow of water in Rock Creek, to prevent pollution of Rock Creek and the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, to preserve forests and natural scenery in and about Washington, and to provide for the comprehensive systematic, and continuous development of the park, parkway, and playground system of the National Capital**, there is hereby constituted a commission, to be known as the National Capital Park Commission, composed of the Chief of Engineers of the Army, the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, the Director of the National Park Service, the Chief of the Forest Service, the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds and the chairmen of the Committees on the District of Columbia of the Senate and House of Representatives. At the close of each Congress the Presiding Officer of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint, respectively, a Senator elect and a Representative elect to the succeeding Congress to serve as members of this commission until the chairmen of committees of the succeeding Congress shall be chosen: The officer in charge of public buildings and grounds shall be the executive and disbursing officer of said commission.

Sec.2. Said commission or a majority thereof is hereby authorized and directed to acquire such lands as in its judgment shall be necessary and desirable in the District of Columbia and adjacent areas in Maryland and Virginia, within the limits of the appropriations made for such purposes, for suitable development of the National Capital park, parkway, and playground system. That said commission is hereby authorized to acquire such lands by purchase when they can be acquired at prices reasonable in the judgment of said commission, otherwise by condemnation proceedings, such proceedings to acquire lands within the District of Columbia to be in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Congress approved August 30, 1890, providing a site for the Government printing Office (United States Statutes at Large, volume 26, chapter 837), the Chief of Engineers of the Army being, for the purposes of this Act, hereby clothed with all the power vested by the said a Act of August 30, 1890, in the board created by the Act. Said commission is hereby authorized to acquire such lands, located in Maryland or Virginia, either by purchase or condemnation proceedings, by such arrangements as to acquisition and payment for the lands as it shall determine upon by agreement with the proper officials of the States of Maryland and Virginia shall be subject to the approval of the President of the United States.

Sec. 3. That there is authorized to be appropriated, each year hereafter, in the annual District of Columbia Appropriation Act a sum not exceeding one cent for each inhabitant of the continental United States as determined by the last preceding decennial census, said sum to be used by said commission for the payment of its expenses and for the acquisition of the lands herein authorized to be acquired by said commission for the purposes named, the compensation for the land, the expense of surveys, ascertainment of title, condemnation proceedings, if any, and necessary conveyancing to be paid from said appropriations. The funds so appropriated shall be paid from the revenues of the District of Columbia and the general funds of the Treasury in the same proportion as other expenses of the District of Columbia. The land so acquired within the District of Columbia shall be a part of the park system of the District of Columbia and be under control of the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army; that areas suitable for playground purposes may in the discretion of said Commission, be assigned to the control of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for playground purposes. That the land so acquired outside the District of Columbia shall be controlled as determined by agreement between said commission and the proper officers of the State of Maryland and Virginia, such agreements to be subject to the approval of the President.

Sec. 4. Said commission shall report to Congress annually on the first Monday of December the lands acquired during the preceding fiscal year, the method of acquisition, and the cost of each tract. It shall also submit to the Bureau of the Budget on or before September 15 of each year its estimate of the total sum to be appropriated for expenditure under the provisions of this Act during the succeeding fiscal year.

Approved, June 6, 1924